

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-21 (deleted).

Claim 22 (currently amended): A dextrose hydrate in powder form, having:

- a dextrose content at least equal to 98%,
- an  $\alpha$  crystalline form content at least equal to 95%,
- a water content greater than 1%,
- a compressibility determined according to a test A at least equal to 70 N,
- an apparent density, determined according to HOSOKAWA, of less than 0.7 g/ml,
- a mean diameter in the range 50  $\mu$ m to 1000  $\mu$ m,
- a flow grade at least equal to 60,

wherein said dextrose hydrate in powder form is obtained by a process comprising the succession of steps consisting in:

- a step involving the rehumidification/granulation, using a suitable binder, of a crystalline dextrose of substantially  $\alpha$  form obtained directly by crystallisation or by partial or complete drying of a crystalline dextrose monohydrate, and then
- a step involving the ageing/drying of the rehumidified granulated dextrose thus obtained to a water content greater than 1%.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The dextrose hydrate according to claim 22, having a water content in the range 2% to 10%.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The dextrose hydrate according to claim 23, having a water content in the range 5% to 9.5%.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The dextrose hydrate according to claim 22, having a compressibility of at least 90 N.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The dextrose hydrate according to claim 25, having a compressibility in the range 90 N to 200 N.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 22, having a compressibility determined according to a test A in the range 150 N to 200 N and according to a test B at least equal to 170 N.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The dextrose hydrate according to claim 27, having a compressibility determined according to a test B in the range 175 N to 300 N.

Claims 29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (Currently amended): The dextrose hydrate according to claim ~~29~~ 22, having an apparent density in the range 0.45 g/ml to 0.65 g/ml.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The dextrose hydrate according to claim 30, having an apparent density in the range 0.5 g/ml to 0.6 g/ml.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): The dextrose hydrate according to claim ~~29~~ 22, having a mean diameter in the range 100  $\mu\text{m}$  to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 33 (Currently amended): The dextrose hydrate according to claim ~~29~~ 22, having a flow grade in the range 60 to 90.

Claim 34 (Currently amended): The dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 22, having:

- ~~— a dextrose content at least equal to 98%,~~
- ~~— an  $\alpha$  crystalline form content at least equal to 95%,~~
- a compressibility, determined according to a test A, in the range 180 N to 200 N, and according to a test B greater than 220 N.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 34, having a compressibility determined according to a test B, greater than 230 N.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A sweetener, osmotic agent, nutrient or excipient in compositions intended in particular for the food, pharmaceutical, chemical or agrochemical sectors, comprising a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 22.

Claim 37 (withdrawn until allowance): A process for the preparation of a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 22, wherein it comprises a succession of steps consisting in a step involving the rehumidification/granulation, using a suitable binder, of a crystalline dextrose of substantially  $\alpha$  form obtained directly by crystallisation or by partial or complete drying of a crystalline dextrose monohydrate, then a step involving

the ageing/drying of the rehumidified granulated dextrose thus obtained.

Claim 38 (withdrawn until allowance): The process for the preparation of a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 37, wherein it comprises a step involving the granulation of an  $\alpha$  crystalline dextrose having a water content greater than 1%.

Claim 39 (withdrawn until allowance): The process for the preparation of a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 38, wherein the  $\alpha$  crystalline dextrose has a water content in the range of 2% to 10%.

Claim 40 (withdrawn until allowance): The process for the preparation of a dextrose hydrate in powder form according to claim 37, wherein it comprises a step involving the granulation of an  $\alpha$  crystalline dextrose having a water content at most equal to 1%.

Claim 41 (withdrawn until allowance): The process for preparation according to claim 37, wherein the granulation step is carried out in a continuous mixer-granulator.